Child labourers in the country

488. SHRI HARVENDR\ SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that around 44 million child labourers are in India ;

(b) if so, whether despite Government's efforts to free the children from bonded labour the children are forcibly asked to work; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this regard to free children from bondage in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF P\RLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA) : (a) The estimated number of child workers in tne age grout) 5-14 years in the country in 1986, worked out on the basis of the National sample Survey (38th round) and the Population figures as projected by the Expert Committee on Papulation Projections was 16. 7 million.

(b) and (c) it is a statutory obligation of the State Governments under the bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, to releaseany bonded labourers (children or adults) as soon as they are ideafied Further, to supplement the eports of the State Governments in regard to ideit fication ani rel&v. ■■ of bonded lab) it, the Central Government has with effect from 33-15-1937 launched a plan schema for the involvemnt of voluntary agneios in the of identification and rehabilitation of bonlei labour.

Closure of newspapers due to hike in the prices of newsprint

489. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that due to hike in the price of newsprint, several small and medium newspapers are likely to be closed down in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Indian federation of Small and Medium Newspapers has also urged Government to reduce the price of newsprint;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(d) steps Government propose to take to save the small and medium newspapers in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) : (a) No such report has been received by the Government.

(b) to (d) The Government have received representations for reduction in the prices of the newsprint. The Central Government do not exercise any statutory control on the prices of newsprint and it has not beem found possible to reduce the price. However, appreciating the difficulties of small and medium newspaper Government have in addition to existing concessions decided to extead 100% concession in customs duty for glazed newsprint in and 5)% exemption from customs duty in in case of medium newspapers (periodicals) entitled to the

glazed newsprint as per the Newsprint Allocation Policy 1989-90.

Increase in capacity of DMS milk plant

• 490. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the capacity of the DMS milk plant in view of growing demand of the capital's consumers; and

(b) if so, what is the present capacity of the DMS .milk plant and the capacity proposed to be increased ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DE°ARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAY/) : (a) and (b) The milk handling capacities of Delhi Milk Scheme are being expanded to reach a marketing level of 5 00 lakh litres per day of Tonne! Milk from the present Ivevel of around 4.12 lakh litres a day (average).

Special provisions for supply of essential commodities to Assam due to floods

491. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKR VARTY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any special provision for the supply of essential commodities like rice, pulses etc. in order to meet any situation during these months of floods in Assam; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India has been asked lo build up buffer stocks of wheat and rice to meet the requirements of the area during the monsoon. In spite of constraints, due to disruption of communications in recent months, FCI was holding stocks of wheat and rice to meet the requirements of Assam/North East States for 3 months and 1 month respectively at the current level of all ocations. (As on 30-6-89)puless are not supplied under PDS.

492. *[Transferred to the 21th July,* 1989.]

Registration of new TV serials for National Telecast

493. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROAD CASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan's authirities stopped registering new serial for national telecast in view of the huge number of serials already registered; and

(b) if so, what is the total number of serials registered till date and by when new registration is likely to be accepted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) : (a) Yes, Sir- Doordarshan stopped accepting fresh proposals for sponsored serials with effect from 7-5-1985.

(b) 1656 proposals for serials were registered wth Doordarshan till 7-5-1986 Doordarshan has, since then, revised the scheme for sponsored serials. It is envisaged to